



# PUBLIC HEALTH BYTES

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Henrico Health Department's Newsletter

Working in partnership  
with the citizens of  
Henrico County to create  
the conditions for health.

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## Communicable Diseases

**Roundup: Enterovirus alert** - Current outbreaks of enterovirus 71 (EV71) in China (where the Summer Olympics will be hosted starting 8/8/08) may pose an elevated risk for transmission and subsequent importation of EV71 into the U.S. Take a travel history from individuals with a "summer cold," fever and muscle aches, or diarrhea and sores on the hands, feet and mouth. As a reminder, enteroviruses can be found in respiratory secretions and stool of an infected person. Infants and the immunocompromised are at increased risk of complications. **Reporting requirements** - Revisions to the *Code of Virginia* pertaining to healthcare-associated infections become effective July 1, 2008. The addition requires hospitals to report by 1/31/2009 central-line associated bloodstream infections that occur in adult ICUs between 7/08 and 12/08, and enter data quarterly thereafter according to a schedule. Data will be reported to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network and will be available in 2/2009 or later. **Salmonella Saintpaul** - As of 6/27/2008, the national *Salmonella* Saintpaul case count stood at 810 cases (onset 4/10/08 - 6/15/08). Virginia is currently reporting 22 cases, with the majority occurring in northern Virginia. No cases have been reported by Henrico or other central region districts at this time. It is likely that more cases have occurred than those confirmed due to reporting delays and because persons with Salmonellosis may not have their stool tested. Providers are encouraged to order stool tests for persons with clinically compatible illness, and to report all Salmonellosis cases to us by phone (804-501-4522) or fax (804-501-4232). To date, the data implicate consumption of raw red plum, red Roma, or round red tomatoes from farms in Mexico and Florida. See: <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/>

## Environmental Health

**Rabies Vaccine Update:** Please consult the local health department about potential rabies exposure issues given that RabAvert® (Novartis) is not currently available (that may change in July). IMOVAX® (Sanofi Pasteur) is available for rabies post-exposure needs. Sanofi will try to fill orders for those requesting vaccines for pre-exposure prophylaxis with priority given for those individuals at greatest rabies exposure risk (e.g., rabies laboratory workers, animal control officers, veterinary staff, and wildlife workers). See [http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-06-17\\_RabVaxupdate.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2008-06-17_RabVaxupdate.html)

## Community Health Improvement

**Help us save the next baby!** A central regional media campaign will be launched June 30<sup>th</sup> on local TV and radio. The messages focus on SIDS prevention, recognition of preterm labor and preconception health improvement. The public is encouraged to call 2-1-1 for more information. Call 804-501-4522 to get involved.

## Pandemic Flu - ALERT PHASE WHO: 3; US: 0

**Pandemic/Avian Flu Update: Human Cases**-In the last month, new human H5N1 infections were confirmed in Indonesia (2 cases) in females ages 16 and 34 years. Of the 385 human H5N1 cases reported by fifteen countries between 2003 and 2008, 243 were fatal (63.1%). **Animal cases**-Poultry testing positive for exposure to the H7N3 avian virus during routine testing at a commercial poultry farm in Arkansas resulted in the culling of thousands of hens as a protective measure. There was no risk to human health. Recent CDC research, however, suggests that H7 avian flu strains may have properties that enhance their potential to infect humans. See:

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/pressrel/2008/r080610a.htm>

## Emergency Preparedness

**Drowning Prevention:** In the U.S., fatal drownings from 2002 to 2006 numbered 516 of which 430 (83%) were unintentional. Drownings can be prevented. Counsel your patients to reduce the risks of drowning/submersions by taking some simple steps. See: [www.henricoprepares.org](http://www.henricoprepares.org)

**Medical Reserve Corps:** We continue to grow! Sign up at: <http://www.co.henrico.va.us/health/mrc.html>

## Prevention Updates

### United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF)

**Updates: Screening for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus** -The USPSTF recommends screening for type 2 diabetes in asymptomatic adults with sustained blood pressure (either treated or untreated) greater than 135/80 mm Hg. See more at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/uspstf/uspstdiab.htm>

**Fireworks:** Highlights from the May 2008 report from the National Fire Protection Association – "In 2006, 9,200 fireworks-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. The highest injury rates were for children aged 10 to 14. In 2006, nine out of ten (90%) emergency room fireworks injuries involved fireworks that Federal regulations permit consumers to use. Risk of fire death relative to time used shows fireworks as the riskiest consumer product. Fireworks and sparklers are designed to explode or throw off showers of hot sparks. Temperatures may exceed 1200°F." See the full report at:

<http://www.vahealth.org/civp/fire/documents/2008/pdf/Fireworks%202008.pdf>

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